

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-11, 15-17, 21-23 and 30-36 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 6-8 and 33 being independent. Claims 1, 6-8 and 33 have been amended to recite that the pumping source is electrically connected to the anode or the cathode. Support for these amendments can be found in the application at page 29, lines 16-20 and FIG. 4A. Claims 9-11 have been amended for clarity. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1, 6-11, 15-17, 21-23, 30-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosokawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,660,410) in view of Baird (U.S. Patent No. 5,260,963). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Hosokawa, Baird, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests a pumping source that is electrically connected to the anode or the cathode.

As noted by the Examiner, Hosokawa fails to disclose a pumping source for supplying pumping energy to the laser medium.

Baird is cited as showing, in Fig. 2, a rear resonator mirror (108) and an output coupling mirror (120) that are said to correspond to the recited optical resonator, and a laser diode package (20) that is said to correspond to the recited pumping source and is configured for pumping energy to a lasant (80) that is said to correspond to the recited laser medium. However, the laser diode package (20) produces an optical pumping beam 74 such that Baird's laser diode package (20) constitutes an optical pumping source that is not electrically connected to the anode or the cathode, as recited in each of the independent claims.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejection should be withdrawn.

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The fees in the amount of \$180 for the information disclosure statement is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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